

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application. Claims 1-31 and 52-63 are withdrawn as directed to non-elected inventions; and Claims 32-38, 40-41 and 49-51 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 32-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement; and Claims 32-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Pesin by holding a personal interview with the undersigned on September 9, 2005. During the interview, an overview of the invention was provided and claim amendments were discussed that address the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The substance of the interview is reflected in the amended claims and remarks presented herein. No agreement was reached during the interview pending a formal response to the outstanding Official Action.

In response to the rejection of Claims 32-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51 are amended to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter. The outstanding Official Action states that it is not clear how a content structure of an object can be expressed by a tree-structure set membership consisting of “zero or at least one object”, and recommends that this language be amended to recite “zero or

¹ Specification, e.g., p. 56-74 (description of second embodiment).

more objects”.² Accordingly, independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51 are amended to recite “zero or more objects”, as recommended in the outstanding Official Action.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 32-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 32-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the outstanding Official Action states that regarding the use of the word “object” that “it is not clear to what object the applicant is referring to when he is referring to an object.”³ However, as discussed during the interview, the term “object” refers to a “root” attribute file which corresponds to a media file (e.g., MPEG-7), and also “parent” and “child” objects that may be held within the root object.⁴ An example of a parent object within the root object is “MovieMmcLogicalContent”, and a child object within this parent object is “IPR”, as described at p. 60, lines 15-18 of the specification. Claim amendments were discussed during the interview that more clearly define the term “object” in the above-noted context, and these claims amendments are incorporated in the presently amended claims, as described below.

The preamble of amended Claim 32 recites “an object content structure management method for managing a content structure of a root object, wherein said root object includes attribute data corresponding to a media file”. As discussed above, in an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment, the “root object” corresponds to an MPEG-7 attribute description holding various definable parent and child objects, and the “object content structure management” corresponds to a method for managing the structure and contents of the parent and child objects held by the root object.⁵

Amended Claim 32 further recites

² Official Action of July 27, 2005, p. 2-3.

³ *Id.*, p. 3.

⁴ Specification, e.g., p. 58, lines 8-10.

⁵ *Id.*, e.g., p. 58-61 and Fig. 38

...expressing the content structure of said root object by a tree-structure set membership consisting of zero or more objects, said zero or more objects comprising zero or more parent objects and zero or more child objects, each child object respectively corresponding to one of said zero or more parent objects; defining an attribute capable of being held by said parent and child objects for each of a plurality of object types...

An exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of this “tree-structure” is depicted in Fig. 37. This figure depicts an example of one parent object (“MovieMmcLogicalContent”), and a plurality of child objects (“IPR”, “CreationMetaInformation”, etc.) related to one another within “tree-structure set membership”, as recited in amended Claim 32. As noted above, and as depicted, for example, in Fig 48, each root object can hold zero or more parent objects, which in turn can hold zero or more corresponding child objects, and each of the child objects can also hold additional child objects of these child objects.

Amended Claim 32 also recites that the parent and child objects are capable of holding an attribute for each of a plurality of object types. As discussed during the interview, an exemplary embodiment of this feature is depicted in Fig. 40, for example. A selected type of child object, in this case “MediaTimePoint”, is assigned an attribute of time in the dialog box on the right hand side of the user interface. Thus, the attribute being held is the actual time information, and the plurality of object types correspond to the various schema labels (e.g., “MediaTimePoint”) used to define a type of object.

Amended Claim 32 further recites

...sequentially managing a list of first child objects of one of said zero or more parent objects as a start object, a list of the first child objects of each start object held by the list of the first child objects, and a second list of child objects of each first child object held by a second list of child objects of the first child objects, thereby managing a content structure of said start object...

As discussed during the interview, an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of this claimed feature is depicted in Fig. 37. In this example, the parent start object corresponds to “MovieMmcLogicalContent” and a first list of child objects might include “IPR”,

“CreationMetaInformation”, etc., and a second list of these child objects of the first child objects may correspond to the second level of child objects such as “Creation”, “Classification”, “RelatedMaterial” etc. These lists may be sequentially managed by editing stored attributes or adding or deleting child objects, as depicted in Figs. 38-47, and as described on p. 61-66 of the specification. Further, these first and second lists may be displayed using a particular parent or child as a start object, thus managing a content structure of said start object, as depicted in Figs. 48-49, and described at p. 65, line 9-p. 66, line 15, of the specification.

Amended Claim 32 also recites that the first and second lists of child objects hold “instances of all objects actually existing as said child objects and placeholders indicating objects that can exist as said child objects” and that “each child object holds determination information for determining whether a certain object is and instance of an actually existing child object or a placeholder indicating an object that can exist as a child object”.

An exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of this claimed feature is depicted in Fig. 38, and described, for example, at p. 62, lines 10-19 and p. 64, lines 8-25 of the specification. Specifically, in Fig. 38, the child object “IPR” is indicated by a placeholder and labeled as “VACANT” because the child object does not contain any attribute data. Alternatively, child objects actually existing as child objects, for example “PackagedType” are labeled as “OCCUPIED” indicating that these child objects are defined by attribute data.

As discussed above, Claim 32 is amended to clearly describe an “object” and to more clearly describe the relationship between the “objects” recited in the Claim. Independent Claims 35, 41 and 49-51 are similarly amended, and are also not believed to be indefinite.

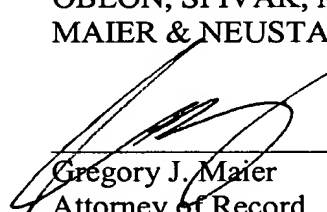
Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 32-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 32-51 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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